Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1238

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EAIR, IT

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: REVIEW OF OUTSTANDING ISSUES WITH NEW

DGCA COLLINI

REF: (A) ROME 18219 (B) STATE 281131 (C) ROME 18392

- 1. ECMIN AND EMBOFF PAID COURTESY CALL NOV 17 ON DR. COLLINI WHO RECENTLY TOOK OVER AS DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION. COLLINI CONFIRMED THAT RETIRED AMBASSADOR FARACE HAS BEEN NAMED TO LEAD ITALIAN DELEGATION FOR CIVIL AIR BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS (REF A).
- 2. ECMIN NOTED THAT FINDING HAS BEEN MADE BY SEC OF TRANS-PORTATION THAT DISCRIMINATION AGAINST U.S. AIRLINES EXISTS AT FIUMICINO AIRPORT BECAUSE ALITALIA IS NOT PAYING LANDING, TAKEOFF, ETC. FEES. COLLINI SAID HE WAS UNDER IMPRESSION ALITALIA NOW PAYING 10 PERCENT OF SUCH FEES, BUT SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO IT AND SEND EMBASSY AN AUTHORITATIVE STATEMENT ON SITUATION IN RESPONSE TO OUR OUTSTANDING REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION.
- 3. ECMIN RECALLED EMBASSY HAD SENT MFA NOTE (BASED ON STATE 248292) ON U.S. POSITION ON ABC CHARTER RULES. COLLINI SAID HE HAD NOT YET FOCUSED ON THAT PARTICULAR ISSUE AS HE HAD BEEN FACED WITH MANY ISSUES DURING HIS FIRST TWENTY DAYS, NOT THE LEAST OF WHICH WERE THE SPORADIC STRIKES NOW PLAGUING THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AIRLINES AND AIRPORTS IN ITALY. HE SAID HE WAS UNDER HEAVY PRESSURE FROM NORDIO, PRESIDENT OF ALITALIA, TO PREVENT DIV-

ERSION OF PASSENGERS FROM SCHEDULED TO NON-SCHEDULED AIR SERVICE. COLLINI SAID HE HAD TO CONSIDER THE NATIONAL INTEREST, HOWEVER, AND NOT JUST THAT OF THE NATIONAL AIRLINE. EMBOFF TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO CONVEY TO COLLINI PARA 3.C. OF REF B, WHICH SUPPORTS VIEW THAT THERE IS LITTLE OR NO EVIDENCE THAT DIVERSION TO CHARTER SERVICES HAS CAUSED INJURY TO SCHEDULED CARRIERS.

- 4. COLLINI SAID HE HOPED TO HAVE NEW CHARTER REGULATIONS OUT BY END OF NOVEMBER TO COVER PERIOD BEGINNING APRIL 1, 1977 WHEN CURRENT REGULATIONS EXPIRE. HE RECOGNIZED THAT TOUR AGENCIES AND CHARTER OPERATORS ARE FIRMING UP THEIR PLANS, SCHEDULES AND PUBLICITY NOW.
- 5. COMMENT. IN VIEW OF SPEED WITH WHICH COLLINI WISHES ISSUE NEW CHARTER REGULATIONS, ANY INPUT FROM WASHINGTON FOR NON PAPER (MENTIONED REF C) WILL HAVE TO BE RECEIVED VERY SOON. IN VIEW OF COLLINI'S APPARENT WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE EMBASSY WITH AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT ON LANDING FEE DISCRIMINATION ISSUE, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT ANY RETALIATORY ACTION THAT MAY BE UNDER CONSIDERATION BE HELD IN ABEYANCE TO ALLOW HIM TIME TO DO SO. BEAUDRY

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